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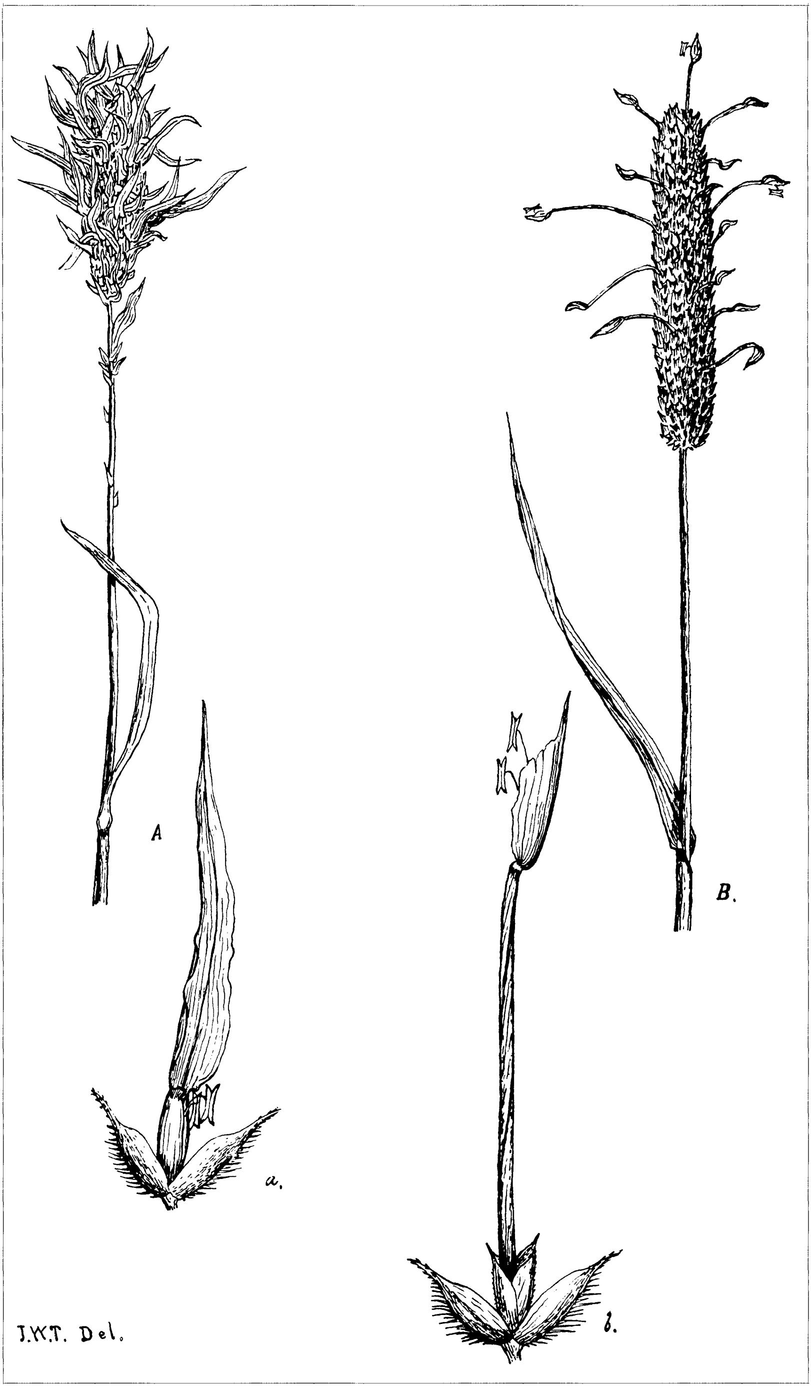
or acutish, entire, 3 to 6 lines long: staminate flowers in short crowded terminal spikes; pistillate flowers in axillary clusters; bracts thick and spongy, 1½ to 2 lines long, obovate, united to above the middle, the free margins above broad and truncate or rounded or acutish, entire, the sides very variously and irregularly appendaged with spongy tubercles or crests which have usually a corrugated appearance when dry.—Nearly allied to *A. Nuttallii.* Discovered by Miss Alice Eastwood at Grand Junction, Colorado, in well formed fruit on 20th May, 1891. Miss Eastwood notes it as the earliest in fruit of several perennial species of the genus growing in the same locality.

RANUNCULUS GLABERRIMUS, Hook.—This common alpine species of the western mountains is much more variable in several respects than the published descriptions would indicate. The leaves vary from broad to narrow, and though the cauline leaves are ordinarily lobed, at least some of them, yet it occasionally happens that all are entire. The plant is as a rule wholly glabrous, but the sepals are sometimes sparsely villous with white hairs, and the achenes are either smooth or finely pubescent. This more pubescent form, as collected by Mr. Siler in southern Utah with entire leaves, was referred by Dr. Gray to *R. Lemmoni*, which species is as yet known only from the original locality in the Sierra Nevada.

RANUNCULUS MACAULEYI, Gray.— Fine fruiting specimens of this rare species have been recently collected by Miss Eastwood in the Elk Mountains above Irwin, Colorado. The achenes are small, in an oblong-ovate head, smooth, somewhat compressed, and beaked with a rather long linear-subulate straight style. The species appears to be well distinguished from *R. Altaicus* by its pilose-ciliate leaves, glabrous linear-oblong receptacle, and longer styles.— SERENO WATSON, *Cambridge, Mass.*

The sterile flowers of Panicum clandestinum.— The past season there was brought into the laboratory by a student a specimen of this species in which the sterile flowers had three well developed stamens. According to Gray's Manual, the lower or sterile flower is "(always?) neutral." On examination of a large number of specimens from this vicinity, it was found that by far the greater number had the lower or sterile flowers staminate. Specimens from Nebraska showed many staminate flowers also. Michigan specimens had the sterile flowers neutral. It was also observed that specimens collected early in the season had a larger number of staminate flowers than those collected later.—THOS. A. WILLIAMS, *State Agricultural College, Brookings, S. D.*

Peculiar forms of proliferation in timothy. (WITH PLATE XXVI.)— In a small plat of Timothy growing on the Experiment Station



TOUMEY on PROLIFERATION.

grounds of the University during the past season, a number of specimens showing these two forms of proliferation were found. Such specimens were especially numerous along an irrigating ditch which ran through the plat. This abnormal development was probably the effects of an over-supply of water. The form *A*, I have observed before. It is frequently produced in wet seasons on low and cold soil. In this case the floral glume is changed to a leaf, with other parts of spikelet normal. *a* represents an enlarged spikelet.

In the form *B* the spikelet is much changed from the normal. In a number of specimens there are four glumes, from between the inner pair of which extends a long stipe, generally more or less twisted and surmounted by a perfect flower. In some cases there are but two glumes below, with long stipe and perfect flower as before. In either case the glume above is very large, sometimes changed to a leaf, while the palet is inconspicuous, or there is none at all. *b* represents a spikelet of this form with four glumes below.—J. W. TOUMEY, *Botanical Laboratory, Univ. of Arizona.*

Iris hexagona.— In August, 1889, I collected at Carlinville in south-central Illinois fruiting specimens of an Iris whose species was not at the time determined because of the absence of flowers. In the season of 1890 the flowering period of the species passed without observation. A special watch was kept during the past summer and in early June the plant was taken in full bloom. With the exception of two points, viz., size of capsule and distribution the features of the plant tallied with the description of I. hexagona. Specimens were therefore sent to Dr. Sereno Watson who identified it as above designated. While the known distribution would suggest its occurrence in this state a careful search has found no record of such occurrence.—W. E. ANDREWS, *Carlinville, Illinois.*

EDITORIAL.

OUR READERS are invited to inspect carefully the table of contents and list of contributors which accompany this number. By doing so they will get a comprehensive view of "the high character and variety of the original communications"—to use the commendatory phrase of one of our most eminent friends. The printed pages bear evidence of much valuable research which we esteem it a privilege to publish. Our readers have a large and distinguished company to